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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE	
REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION DATED 3/11/03	Atty. Docket No. VIGN1270
Applicants Kommers, et al.	
Application Number 09/682,107	Date Filed 07/20/01
Title INFORMATION RETRIEVAL FROM A COLLECTION OF INFORMATION OBJECTS TAGGED WITH HIERARCHICAL KEYWORDS	
Group Art Unit 2171	Examiner Al-Hashemi, S.

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on June 9, 2003.

Carolyn J. Williams

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action mailed March 11, 2003, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of the claims in view of the following amendments to the claims and comments as set forth below. Please amend the Application as follows. Marked up versions showing changes relative to the previous version of the following portions of the title, specification, and claims are included in attached Appendix I.

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IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method of searching for a plurality of information objects comprising:
- selecting a first keyword from a keyword list, wherein the first keyword is part of a first query;
 - automatically expanding the first query to a second query, wherein the second query includes the first keyword and the second keyword, wherein the second key is on the keyword list;
 - searching the database using the second query; and
 - finding a first identifier for a first information object that corresponds to the second query, wherein the first information object is part of the plurality of information objects.